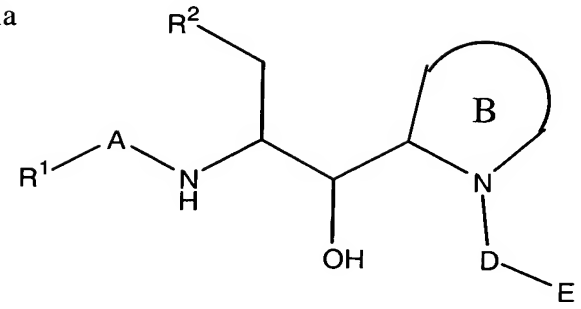
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula

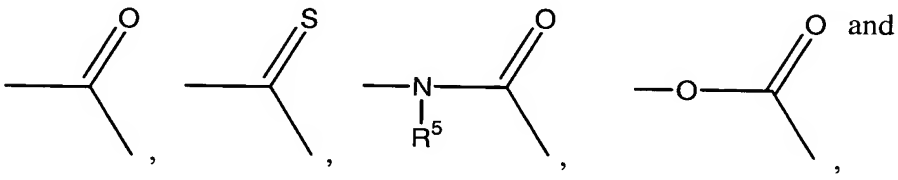


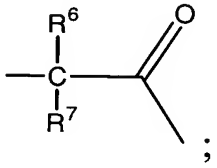
wherein

R^1 is chosen from the group consisting of C_1-C_{20} alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, substituted alkylaryl, C_1-C_{10} alkoxy, C_3-C_{10} oxaalkyl, aryloxy, substituted aryl, substituted aryloxy, heterocyclyl and heterocyclyloxy;

R^2 is chosen from the group consisting of C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbon, substituted aryl and heterocyclyl;

A is chosen from the group consisting of $-SO_2-$, $NHSO_2-$,





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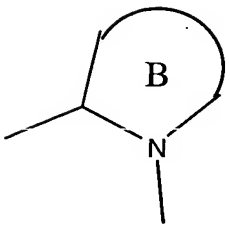
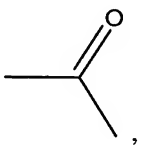
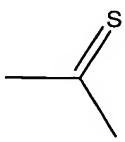


is a monocyclic, bicyclic or tricyclic nitrogen heterocycle

containing from 0

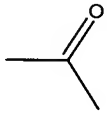
to 3 substituents chosen from lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, hydroxy, mercapto, cyano, carboxy, lower alkoxycarbonyl, lower alkylaminocarbonyl, amino, lower alkylamino, di(lower alkyl)amino, nitro, halo and haloalkyl;

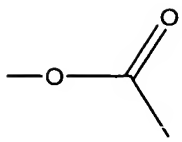
R^5, R^6 and R^7 are chosen independently from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

D is chosen from the group consisting of $-SO_2-$,  and  ,

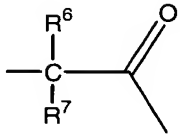
E is chosen from the group consisting of C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbon, substituted aryl, heterocyclyl and substituted heterocyclyl,

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

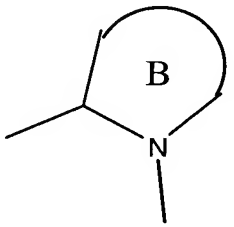
2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is  and R^1 is chosen from the group consisting of C_1-C_{20} alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, and substituted aryl.

3. A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is  and R^1 is

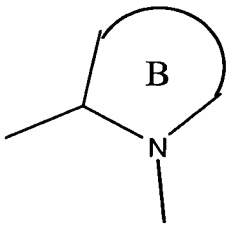
chosen from the group consisting of C_1-C_{20} alkyl, C_1-C_{10} oxaalkyl, substituted aryl and heterocyclyl

4. A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is  , R^6 and R^7 are

hydrogen and R^1 is substituted aryl or substituted aryloxy.

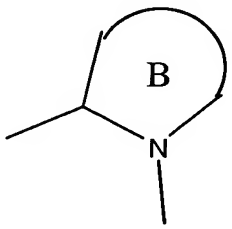
5. A compound according to claim 1 wherein  is a

monocyclic nitrogen heterocycle.

6. A compound according to claim 5 wherein  is chosen

from the group consisting of pyrrolidine, thiazolidine, oxazolidine, piperidine, morpholine, hexahydroazepine, imidazolidine, imidazoline, dihydrothiazole,

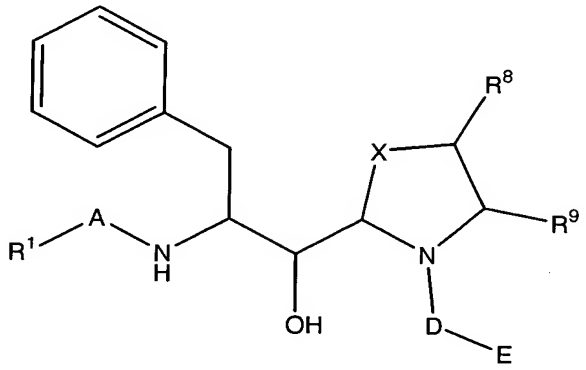
dihydrooxazole, imidazole, indoline, indole, benzimidazole, tetrahydroquinoline and tetrahydroisoquinoline.

7. A compound according to claim 6 wherein  is chosen

from the group consisting of pyrrolidine, thiazolidine and oxazolidine.

8. A compound according to claim 1 wherein D is $-SO_2-$ and E is chosen from aryl, heteroaryl, substituted aryl and substituted heteroaryl.

9. A compound according to claim 1 of formula:



wherein

X is chosen from the group consisting of -O-, -S-, -NH- and $-CH_2-$; and

R^8 and R^9 are chosen independently from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, phenyl, hydroxy, mercapto, cyano, carboxy,

lower alkoxycarbonyl, lower alkylaminocarbonyl, amino, lower alkylamino, di(lower alkyl)amino, nitro, halo and haloalkyl.

10. A compound according to claim 9 wherein X is chosen from the group consisting of -O-, -S- and -CH_2- and R^8 and R^9 are chosen independently from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy and phenyl.

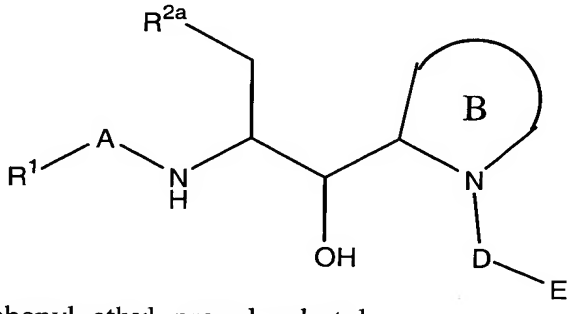
11. A compound according to claim 9 wherein X is S; D is -SO_2- or -C(O)-; E is chosen from aryl, heteroaryl, substituted aryl and substituted heteroaryl.

12. A compound according to claim 11 wherein D is -SO_2- and E is substituted phenyl.

13. A compound according to claim 12 wherein A is -C(O)- and R^1 is lower alkyl, substituted phenyl, lower alkoxy, C_3-C_6 oxaalkyl, or heterocyclyloxy.

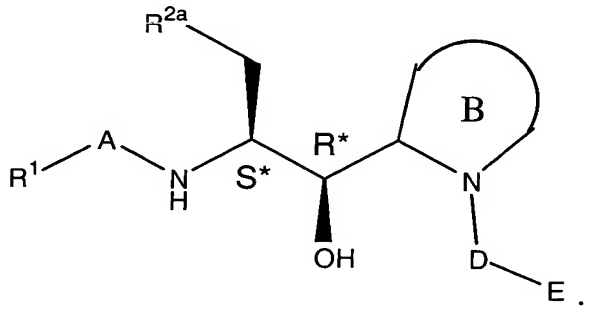
14. A compound according to claim 12 wherein A is -CH_2C(O)- and R^1 is substituted phenoxy.

15. A compound according to claim 1of formula



where in R^{2a} is phenyl, ethyl, propyl or butyl.

16. A compound according to claim 15 wherein the carbon marked S* is of the S configuration and the carbon marked R* is of the R configuration:



17. A method of treating or preventing a protease-precipitated disease which comprises administering to a mammal suffering from said disease or at risk to said disease a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

18. A method according to claim 17 wherein said disease is HIV, AIDS or a related condition.

19. A method according to claim 17 wherein said disease is malaria.

20. A method according to claim 17 wherein said disease is chosen from connective tissue disease, muscular dystrophy, breast cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

21. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

22. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 21 comprising at least one additional antiviral agent.